



The Wasatch Wildflower

Newsletter of the Salt Lake Chapter
of the Utah Native Plant Society

Utah Ladyfinger

Astragalus utahensis

March 2009 News

“Wild species enrich the soil, cleanse the water, pollinate most of the flowering plants. They create the very air we breathe. Without these amenities, the remainder of human history would be nasty and brief.”

E.O. Wilson-*The Creation*

We apologize for the last minute problems with our February meeting, especially to those who made an unnecessary trip to REI. Please note that Ellen Hartz has moved her talk to April so that she can bring a small demonstration hive.

Wednesday March 4th, 7:00pm REI (33rd East and 33rd South, SLC)

Our speaker will be Dr. Wayne Whaley, Professor of Zoology at Utah Valley University and a member of the Utah Lepidopterists Society. Dr. Whaley's research concerns the **Indra Swallowtail Butterfly** (*Papilio indra*), a beautiful and highly variable species which occurs in Utah and other parts of the western US. Twelve subspecies are recognized, making it comparable to some of our most variable plant species in Utah. Butterflies tend to be very picky about where they lay eggs because plants produce many chemical deterrents. As a consequence serious lepidopterists necessarily become very familiar with our native plants.

You might enjoy a preview at his website: <http://research.uvsc.edu/Whaley/>



Wednesday April 1st, 7:00pm REI - UNPS member Ellen Hartz will give a presentation on urban bee-keeping. She will discuss life history, maintaining a hive, and ways to attract them to our urban gardens. She will also bring a demonstration hive with live bees!

Field trips We are planning to run some local trips once the snow is gone. One likely venue is Corner Canyon, where new trails are being developed by Draper City: they may want some help with identifying plants of the area. Further afield we are thinking about a trip to central Utah, perhaps the San Rafael Swell. We would love somebody to volunteer with leading local trips for beginners.

The success of the Chapter is dependent upon its members. If you have any ideas for events or topics, or want to give a presentation, please contact Kipp at kipp_lee@comcast.net or 638-0744. Any ideas or recommendations are welcome!

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